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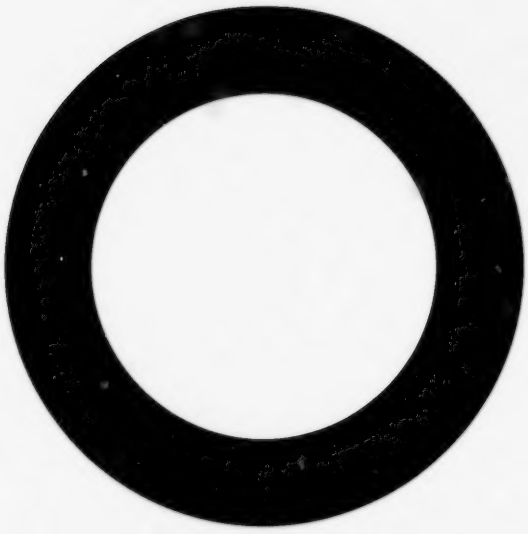
Fifth Meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-16 May 1984

LB/NAIROBI

REVISED NOTE ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS ORGANS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT



The Third Meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development held in Douala, Cameroon, from 15-17 March 1982 considered two documents, one entitled a "Clarifying Note on the Institutional Framework Governing Relations among the various Bodies Established to Promote the Integration of Women in Development" (Doc. ARCC/ATRCW/82/WD.3) and the other entitled "Provisional Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Subregional Committees for the Integration of Women in Development" (Doc. ATRCW/ARCC/82/WD.16), and decided that "the two documents should be merged into one which would define the institutional framework for subregional and regional structures for women's integration in development. The secretariat was requested to include in the document to be produced "the respective mandates of those structures, to define the working relations between them and to to indicate the procedures to be followed". The Fourth Meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa from 11-13 April 1983 considered the document and resolved that the national machineries be invited to submit their views and comments to the ECA on the document not later than 31 October 1983, and that thereafter the ECA should present a revised version of the document having regard to the comments received. On 1 June 1983 the Secretariat sent copies of Doc. No. ATRCW/ARCC/83/WD.8 entitled "Note on the Institutional Framework Governing Relations Between the Various Organs Established to Promote the Integration of Women in Development" to all the members of the ARCC. The member States were requested to submit their comments on the document not later than the 31 October 1983 for inclusion in a revised draft document on the Institutional Framework Governing relations between all bodies concerned with the Integration of Women in Development. Replies or comments were received only from Chad, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Zaire and Zimbabwe. The views of these countries as regards amendments to the constitution and terms of reference of ARCC and the Subregional Committees can be read in Annex IV to this paper.

The African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) is a regional African intergovernmental Committee constituted by resolution 365(XIV) of the ECA Conference of Ministers. Out of its 17 members, the 15 voting members - 3 each designated by each Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development - are representatives of African governments 1/. ARCC, by reason of its functions, relationship with the ECA secretariat and the Commission and its role within the system "of the deliberative organs of the Commission" 2/, is also to that extent a subsidiary organ of the Commission.

The Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development which requested the establishment of ARCC, was held at Nouakchott, Mauritania, 27 February-2 October 1977. This Regional Conference was held, inter alia, for the purpose of implementing the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year and General Assembly resolution 3520(XXX) with respect to the establishment of the required national, subregional and regional machinery for the integration of women in development.

1/ The two non-voting members are the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary General of OAU.

2/ Commission resolution 365(XIV), the third preambular paragraph. See Annex II to this paper.

Resolution 4 which was adopted by the Regional Conference and entitled "Establishment of an African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development", requested the Executive Secretary to consult the ECA Conference of Ministers, "with a view to taking the necessary action for the establishment" 3/ of ARCC in accordance with the "Structure and Terms of Reference of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development" 4/ annexed to the report of the Regional Conference.

In response to the request contained in Resolution 4, the Executive Secretary convened at Rabat, 14-17 March 1979 the inaugural session of ARCC, consisting of subregional representatives of African governments, so as to enable it to consider finally the Constitution and Terms of Reference of ARCC as proposed by the Regional Conference and to suggest any necessary amendments before it was submitted for promulgation by the Fifth Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The report of the inaugural session of ARCC containing amendments to the Constitution and Terms of Reference of ARCC was submitted to the Fifth Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers which promulgated the Constitution and Terms of Reference of ARCC as amended, in its resolution 365(XIV).

By virtue of the manner of its establishment by representatives of African governments as well as its composition ARCC is an African intergovernmental organization even though it does not have its own independent source of finance, administrative or technical capability or institutions.

In the third preambular paragraph of resolution 365(XIV), the Conference of Ministers underscored the organic relationship of ARCC to the Commission, by reiterating that it was:

> "Aware of the need to integrate the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee within the sys tem of the deliberative organs of the Commission",

In accordance with the Constitution and Terms of Reference of ARCC as amended and promulgated by resolution 365(XIV), meetings of ARCC are to be convened by the Executive Secretary; the African Training and Research Centre for Women in the Commission (ATRCW) is to act as the secretariat of ARCC; the rules of procedure of ARCC are also to be the same as those of the Commission.

The functions of ARCC also illustrate its close working relationship with the Commission: ARCC is to:

- harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes concerning women in development as approved by the MULPOCs;
- mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels;
- participate in the activities and meetings of the United Nations (including the Commission) and other relevant organizations;

3/ Report of the Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (Doc. E/CN.14/ECO/128/Rev.1; E/CN.14/ATRCW/11 Rpt. SOC/150/84 Resolution 4 p. 16. See Annex I to this paper.

4/ Ibid.

Commission resolution 363(XIV) further re-inforces this position by deciding that:

> "the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for Women in Development should participate in the meetings of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and the Conference of the Commission";
>
> - review and evaluate activities carried out in the region in the framework of programmes for the advancement of women;
>
> - report to the deliberative organs of the Commission on activities and programmes carried out in the subregions.

These attributes, apart from the fact that the constitution establishing ARCC was promulgated by the ECA Conference of Ministers, clearly show, that an African intergovernmental organization though it may be, ARCC is also at the same time, a subsidiary organ of the Commission for the purposes and to the extent indicated above.

The Subregional Committees,on the other hand, were established by subregional meetings convened by the Executive Secretary in pursuance of same resolution 4 adopted by the Regional Conference and attended by representatives of governments within the subregions. The subregional meetings,established the Subregional Committees composed of representatives of the various national machineries for the integration of women in development within the various subregions and electing their own officials, are by virtue of the manner of their establishment and composition, subregional intergovernmental organizations. Their establishment has also been endorsed by the policy-making organs of the MULPOCs concerned5/. Their functions, deriving from the purpose of their establishment, are namely to act as:

> "At the subregional level, committees on the implementation of plans of action for the integration of women in development within the framework of the existing Multinational Programming and Operational Centres based at Lusaka, Yaounde, Gisenyi, Niamey and Tangiers",6/

are as contained in the Report of the Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development 7/ and include ensuring that subregional development programmes provide fully for the integration of women in development, the dissemination and exchange of relevant information within the subregion through workshops, seminars ,etc., the initiation of studies on the proper understanding of the situation of women in development and the provision of clearing house facilities with respect to programmes designed to promote the advancement of women.

5/ See for instance the report of the Second Meeting of the Council of Minis of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) for West Africa, Bamako, 22-23 February 1979 (Doc. E/CN.14/100) Annex II,p. 8 et seq.

6/ Report of the Regional Conference of the Implementation of National Regio and World Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (Doc.E/CN.14/ 128/Rev.1, E/CN.14/ATRCW/11/Rpt. SOC/150/84), Resolution 4, p. 17.

7/ See Annex III to this paper.

For these purposes, the Subregional Committees should be represented by their office bearers in the deliberations of the policy-making organs of the MULPOCs so as to ensure the inclusion of components dealing with women in development in the work programmes of the MULPOCs and to review their implementation. The work programmes of the MULPOCs are integrated into the work programme of the ECA by the ECA Conference of Ministers. ECA has posted staff members as Women's Programme Co-ordinators to each of the MULPOCs, inter alia, to assist the subregional committees.

Thus, although the subregional committees are intergovernmental institutions, even though they may lack independent financial and administrative capabilities or institutions, they are by virtue of the purpose and method of their establishment and their functions described above with respect to the MULPOCs and their policy-making organs, which are in themselves subregional subordinate organs of the Commission, also organs of the MULPOCs to the extent of such functions and for that purpose, should be represented in that capacity in the meetings of the policy-making organs of the MULPOCs. In support of this proposition, Commission resolution 363(XIV):

> "Calls on the Bureaux of the subregional committees for the integration of women in development to attend the meetings of the committees of officials and councils of ministers of the Multinational programming and operational (sic) Centres".

Attention should also be drawn to other factors which also illustrate the role which the subregional committees are to play within the deliberative system of the organs of the Commission. Resolution 3 adopted by the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Development held in Niamey 30 November-2 December 1978 sums up the position in its first preambular paragraphs as follows:

> "Considering that the subregional committee on the integration in development is an integral part of the Niamey-based MULPOC" 8/.

The Inaugural Session of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development also had this to say on the issue:

> "Subregional committees had been recommended at the Nouakchott Regional Conference and were an integral part of the MULPOC. They had been created to ensure that women's affairs were taken care of within the MULPOC programme of work and in national development plans. They were not executing agencies but they could initiate, promote and provide advise regarding women's programmes in the subregion" 9/

8/ Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Development 30 November-2 December 1978 Doc. ECA/MULPOC/NIAMEY/18) p.9.

9/ Report of the Inaugural Session of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, Rabat, 14-17 March 1974. (Doc.E/CN.14/716) Paragraph 36.

Whilst the subregional committees as such are not established as subsidiary organs of ARCC, membership of ARCC is derived from the subregional committees. Secondly, the functions of ARCC are, inter alia, to harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes of the MULPOCs on women in development and to report to the Commission on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion. ARCC, which as has been shown, is, at the regional level, a subsidiary organ of the Commission, is thus able to exercise supervisory functions over the work of the Subregional Committees. This is another link which completes the pyramidal structure with national machineries forming its base, then proceeding upwards to the subregional committees composed of representatives of national machineries within a subregion, to deal with the problem of women in development at the subregional level, and fi nally to the apex, namely ARCC composed of representatives of the subregional committees, and which acts at the regional level. This pyramidal structure thus ensures the incorporation of women's issues within the development programme as well as the deliberative system of the Commission.

The financial and administrative responsibilities of the Commission to ARCC and the subregional committees are however determined in the manner described above, namely to the extent that ECA, and ATRCW and the Women's Programme coordinators respectively act as secretariat to the former and assist the latter, and matters related thereto.

The Third Meeting of the West African Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development held 21-26 March 1983 at Cotonou had raised the issue of establishing the West African Subregional Committee as an integral organization with its own secretariat and finances provided by contributions from the governments represented on the Subregional Committee. This matter was referred to the Fourth Meeting of ARCC since it was a matter that could affect all the other subregional committees.

In order to strengthen the subregional committees in the manner suggested by the Third Meeting of the West African Subregional Committee, a meeting of plenipotentiaries of governments from the subregions would require to be called in order to agree on the establishment, inter alia, of the required institutions of the subregional committees as well as the financial obligations which would devolve on governments in the operation of the subregional committees and their institutions.

In this regard attention must be drawn to resolution 477(XVIII) adopted by the Ninth Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers which established an ad hoc committee consisting of representatives of ten member States of the Commission to evaluate all ECA and OAU-sponsored institutions as to their relevance and ways in which their activities would be co-ordinated and harmonized and to make proposals to the forthcoming tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. The ad hoc committee was also required to take account of paragraphs of the Lagos Plan of Action in which the Second Extraordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU decided that:

"Since, however, the vital role of an appropriate number of multinational institutions to the economic and social development of Africa cannot be gainsaid, steps must be taken to ensure that new multinational institutions are established

only after careful considerations of their necessity, objectives and activities and where there is clear indication that they will obtain the political as well as the financial support of member States. As regards existing multinational institutions, they should also receive the fullest political and financial support of member States. It is therefore proposed that the following guidelines should be followed for the strengthening of existing multinational institutions and the establishment of new ones:

(i) the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU in co-operation with UNDP and major donors, should undertake an assessment of the objectives and operations of the various existing multinational institutions established under the aegis of the Commission with a view to making proposals as to their continued relevance and effectiveness and to advise on ways and means by which they may be better rationalized, co-ordinated or harmonized, or what new multinational institutions shall be required".

Under these circumstances, it is proposed firstly that the government representatives on subregional committees should first obtain their government's Declaration of Intent and Commitment to undertake financially and politically the strengthening of their subregional committees in the manner that such representatives may wish. Subsequent steps may then be taken in the light of the decisions that the Tenth Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers may take with respect to the report of the ad hoc committee.

Establishment of an African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

The Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development

Recalling the provisions of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development adopted for the Region of the Economic Commission for Africa in which reference is made to the establishment of machinery, including an African Regional Standing Committee to co-ordinate the work of the national commissions, advise the women's programme of the Economic Commission for Africa and to co-operate with international and regional organizations, especially the All-Africa Women's Conference,

Recalling also the provisions of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year in June 1975 which called upon the United Nations regional commissions to stimulate interest in the plan and to provide Governments and non-governmental organizations with the support they need to carry out the plans and recommended that regional commissions establish machinery to do this, possibly by setting up a standing committee of experts from nations in the region,

Aware of the great need for an integrated organizational machinery within the administrative structure of the Economic Commission for Africa which would be responsible for planning and programming from the regional and subregional to the national level,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to consult the Commission's Council of Ministers with a view to taking the necessary action for the establishment, as provided for in the document entitled "structure and Terms of Reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development", which is annexed to this report:

(i) At the regional level, of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development;

(ii) At the subregional level, committees on the implementation of plans of action for the integration of women in development within the framework of the existing Multinational Programming and Operational Centre based at Lusaka, Yaounde, Gisenyi, Niamey and Tangier.

2. Recommends that the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development, of which the current conference is considered to be the first session, be convened once every three years in order to review progress and make proposals in respect of the activities of the African Training and Research Centre for Women in particular and of the integration of women in development in general and that the reports and recommendations adopted by this Conference at each of its sessions be submitted to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa through the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

3. Further recommends that the next session of the Conference should be held, exceptionally, in 1979 in view of the Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, in which the regional commissions were invited to consider ways and means of contributing effectively to the Wor ld Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980, including the possibility of holding before 1980 regional seminars or meetings on the themes of the Conference.

365 (XIV). Structure and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Nouakchott Regional Conference on the Implementation of the National, Regional and World Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development,

Having considered the report of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development,

Aware of the need to integrate the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee within the system of the deliberative Organs of the Commission,

1. Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the desirability of amending the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

2. Decides to amend the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee:

(A) By replacing the provisions relating to the composition of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee and its officers with the following:

I. "The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Three members designated by each subregional committee (with the right to vote);

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA (without the right to vote), and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (without the right to vote);

(c) (i) The Pan-African Women's Organization;
(ii) United Nations Agencies;
(iii) The representatives of donor agencies;

the above being invited as observers if a particular subject under consideration is of interest to them;

II. The Africa Regional Co-ordinati ng Committee shall elect a bureau composed of:

- a chairman
- a first and a second vice-chairmen, and
- two rapporteurs.

III. The terms of office of the Bureau will be two years. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee will meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau".

(B) The African Training and Research Centre for Women will act as secretariat of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

(C) The rules of procedure of the Committee shall be the same as those of the Economic Commission for Africa.

(D) By replacing the terms of reference of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee with the following:

"1. To harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes approved within the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

2. To evaluate and implement work programmes, bearing in mind the availability of resources and to oversee the implementation of work programmes;

3. To organize the exchange of information and experiences;

4. To participate in the activities and meetings of the United Nations and other relevant organizations;

5. To mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels;

6. To review and evaluate activities carried out in the region in the framework of programmes for the advancement of women;

7. To convene every three years, the African Regional Conference on women and development;

8. To report to the deliberative organs of the Economic Commission for Africa on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion (Committee of Officials and Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and and Operational Centres)".

27th meeting
27 March 1979

Terms of reference of the Subregional Committees:

The subregional committees shall:

(a) Receive and review proposals submitted by the national commissions on women and development or by similar bodies responsible for ensuring the integration of women in all sectors of national development, with a view to obtaining technical and financial assistance for the implementation of projects;

(b) Disseminate information and deal with matters relating to mass communications;

(c) Exchange knowledge and experience through workshops, seminars, study tours and other types of technical meetings;

(d) Ensure that subregional development programmes provide fully for the integration of women in development;

(e) Initiate country studies and assist national institutions to identify the types of information needed for a proper understanding of the situation of women and the factors facilitating or limiting the advancement of women;

(f) Assist in the design and implementation of surveys carried out for the purpose of collecting statistical data and other information;

(g) Provide clearing-house facilities for the exchange of information apt to promote co-ordination and mutual support among programmes designed to promote the advancement of women at various levels and for the sharing of relevant experience among the countries of the subregion.

1. Composition of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)

ECA Commission resolution 365(XIV) of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission, Fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, in March 1969, amended the Constitution and terms of reference of the African Regional Coordinating Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the ARCC") adopted in Nouakchott, Mauritania, 27 September to 2 October 1977. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 3 of the Fourth meeting of ARCC held in Addis Ababa, 11-13 April 1983 concerning the Institutional Framework governing relations between organs established to promote the Integration of Women in Development and in conformity with resolution 13(IV) on "Women in Development" adopted by the Ninth Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa held in Addis Ababa from 27 April to 2 May 1983, some member States of the ARCC have proposed that the Constitution of ARCC be amended as shown in the paragraphs that follow. That is to say: the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Three members designated by each subregional Committee (with the right to vote).

Proposed amendments and comments on (a) above:

- 2(a) the bureau of each subregional committee on the Integration of women in Development (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Rapporteur):

- 2(a) three members of the bureau of the subregional committee with the right to vote (Congo);

- countries that are absent from meetings give authority to the President of their SRC (Congo);

- new 2(b): a representative of each country of the subregion, as observer, without the right to vote, and at their expense whenever the agenda deals with legal questions (Congo);

- add the country absent from the meeting should authorize the current chairperson of the subregional committee to act on its behalf - Gabon;

- a representative of each country of the subregion to attend as observer and bear all expenses, without the right to vote,each time there is a legal problem on the agenda (Gabon).

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA (without the right to vote), and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (without the right to vote).

Proposed amendments and comments:

- Why have they no right to vote? Clarify (Zaire).

(c) (i) The Pan-African Women's Organization;

(ii) United Nations Agencies;

(iii) The representatives of donor agencies

The above being invited as observers if a particular subject under consideration is of interest to them.

Proposed amendments and comments on (c) above:

- If members in 2(b) and 2(c) have no right to vote, who has the right to vote? Clarify (Zaire).

- PAWO should be a full fledged member of ARCC in view of its political status in the continent (Madagascar).

2. Organs and Procedure of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC)

Resolution 365(XIV)referred to in paragraph 2 of this paper provides inter alia that:

(a) the ARCC shall elect the following:

- chairperson;
- a first and second vice-chairpersons;
- two rapporteurs.

(b) the term of office of the Bureau shall be two years;

(c) the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee will meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the bureau.

Proposed amendments and comments:

- ARCC meetings are held once a year convened by the Executive Secretary after consulting the Bureau. Nowhere is mentioned the designation of the Executive Secretary and the criteria of his designation. The designation of the Executive Secretary should be mentioned in this paragraph, otherwise ARCC should be convened at the request of its President or 2/3 of its members. These seems to be some confusion (Chad).

- The paragraph should read: The ARCC shall meet once a year convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau and at least one week prior to the opening of the ECA Conference of Ministers (Congo).

- Paragraph should read: The ARCC meets at least once a year convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau. It can also meet at least one week prior to the ECA Conference of Ministers (Zaire).

- Paragraph should read: ARCC shall meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau and at least a week before the opening of the ECA Conference of Ministers (Gabon).

(b) The ARCC may, in consultation with the ECA, establish such sub-committees as it may deem necessary for the efficient implementation of its activities.

- If there are other sub-committees like the subregional committees we do not see their usefulness. One should talk about "working sub-committees" (Gabon).

3. Terms of Reference of the ARCC

Commission resolution 365(XIV) referred to in paragraph 2 of this paper further amended the constitution and terms of reference of the ARCC adopted in Nouakchott in 1977 by providing that the terms of reference of the ARCC shall be inter alia:

(a) To evaluate and implement work programmes, bearing in mind the availability of resources and to oversee the implementation of work programmes.

Proposed amendments and comments:

- "To evaluate and oversee the implementation of work programmes bearing in mind the availability of resources". (Ghana)

- "It is important to leave the implem entation of work programmes to individual member countries and for MULPOC Women's programme co-ordinators to co-ordinate. It is unrealistic to expect that members of ARCC could implement work programmes. ARCC should be largely an advisory and supervisory body". (Ghana)

- "ARCC cannot discharge their function without resources. It seems advisable that ARCC becomes a subsidiary organ of the ECA. Otherwise we have to re-think its existence. The words execute and supervise should be left to SRC and the co-ordination of women's programmes. Therefore (b) should read as follows:

"Evaluate the work programme based on its own resources and those made available by ECA. All funding schemes as well as ATRCW must be within its own work programme -- (Gabon).

- "We would request that a new paragraph be added to the text: It would deal with ARCC's sources of financing. It would seem that ARCC needs to become a subsidiary body of ECA to be able to survive; otherwise its existence would have to be reconsidered. We would like the terms "implement" and "oversee" to be left to the Subregional Committees and

the Co-ordinator of Women's Programme. The sub-paragraph would read: "to evaluate the work programmes in the light of availability of its own resources and within the framework of appropriate assistance from ECA: any source of financing including ATRCW would have to be tailored to ARCC's work programme" - (Gabon).

- "Can ARCC implement and oversee the implementation of work programmes without resources? (Gabon)

(b) To mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels .

Proposed amendments and comments:

- "(e) should read: look for and not mobilize" (Gabon).

(c) To convene every three years the Africa Regional Conference on Women in Development.

Proposed amendments and comments

- "The Regional Conference is to be held every three years, this is too long. Chad suggests every two years, as new countries like Chad need to be familiarized in the work of ECA and MULPOCs" - (Chad).

- "Delete 'et de' and put a semi-colon after 'developpement'"

(d) To report to the deliberative organs of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion (Committee of Officials and Council of Ministers of the MULPOC).

Proposed amendments and comments

- (2) New item to read: "In addition to its activities the ARCC can participate in meetings organized by ATRCW at the invitation of the latter" - (Gabon).

- Introduction: "Delete the word 'sous' before 'comites' in the title and point 1.2 to read: 'comites sous - Regionaux' as in point 3 (Zaire).

4. Rules of Procedure of S ubregional Committees

The Rules of Procedure of the subregional committees were submitted to the Third Meeting of the ARCC held in Douala, Cameroon, 15-17 March 1982 for consideration but were not finalized. They are appended to this paper as Annex V. Where these Rules of Procedure are silent, the provisions of the ECA Rules of Procedure referred to in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 3 of this paper shall apply.

Proposed amendments and comments:

- Paragraph 6: Rules of Procedure of subregional committees should be Chapter II (Gabon);

- Paragraph 5 should be the first paragraph of a second big chapter without change except (h) which would be clarified during sessions of ARCC (Gabon);

- Procedures of subregional committees should be discussed during sessions before drafting (Gabon);

- Paragraph 6 becomes paragraph 2 of Chapter II. Delete "They are appended to this paper as Annex I"(Gabon);

- All Annex I should come under this paragraph. For better understanding of the text it would be preferable to have just one text and avoid referring the reader to annexes (gabon).

5. National Machineries

The Nouakchott constitution, 27 September to 2 October 1977, as amended by Commission resolution 365(XIV) referred to in paragraph 2 of this paper, makes no reference to the composition and functions of national machineries concerned with the integration of women in economic and social development. Such machineries are left to each member State to establish in accordance with its own laws and practices.

Proposed amendments and comments:

- National machineries will be an annex (Gabon).

RULES OF PROCEDURE

SESSION

Rule 1

(a) A Subregional Committee shall meet in ordinary session once every year immediately preceding the meeting of officials of each MULPOC. The Committee may also meet in extraordinary session if the Chairperson or the majority of member States ask for such meeting. An extraordinary meeting of the Committee shall only consider the question or questions for which the meeting has been convened;

(b) The Subregional Committee shall elect a bureau consisting of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur. The bureau of Subregional Committee shall meet at least once a year;

(c) Representatives of a Committee may, upon invitation, attend meetings or organs of a MULPOC operating in its subregion and participate in such meeting in accordance with rules of procedure of such MULPOC;

AGENDA

Rule 2

(a) The Co-ordinator of the Women's Programme in each MULPOC shall prepare in consultation with the Chairperson of the Com mittee the draft agenda of each meeting.

(b) The provisional agenda shall be communicated to the member States of a subregional committee at least one month before the opening of each meeting;

(c) The office of the Chairperson of a subregional committee shall rotate among the member States;

(d) Subject to such directives as a subregional committee may give, the Chairperson of a Subregional Committee shall be responsible for submitting to donor countries or institutions projects of the Subregional Committee for financing by such countries or institutions;

(e) Subject to consultations with the Director of each MULPOC and subject also to the resources of each Committee, the Co-ordinator of each Committee shall act as Secretary of the Committee;

(f) The working language of a surbregional committee shall be determined by each subregional committee.

QUORUM

Rule 3

(a) A quorum for the meeting of a subregional committee shall consist of a simple majority of its member States. The quorum during the meeting shall consist of a majority of members present.

(b) With the agreement of the Bureau, a Chairperson of a Subregional Committee may invite any person or body to participate at meetings of a subregional committee as an observer.

(c) A subregional committee may make such other rules of procedure as it may deem necessary. Where no rules exist to cover a particular issue the Rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa shall mutatis mutandis apply.

VOTING

Rule 4

Each member State of a Committee may, irrespective of the number of representatives it has on the Committee, exercise only one vote on any matter before the Committee.

AMENDMENTS

Rule 5

A Committee may in exceptional circumstances suspend the operation of these rules of procedure or amend them provided that at least two-thirds of the members present and voting so decide.

Proposed amendments and comments:

- All Annex V should come under the new Chapter II of this document (Gabon);
- Under Annex V, Rule No. 2, Para. (d) should read: "subject to such directives as a subregional committee shall be responsible for submitting to donor countries ....." (Ghana);
- The Council is of the opinion that the Co-ordinator of the Women's programme as the administrative organ of the subregional committees should do this after she had cleared it with the Chairman of the subregional committee (if submitted before the general meeting) (Ghana);
- It is obvious that the W P Co-ordinator being a full-time officer is more in the know of these things and has links with donors. Besides there is the danger that politics may play a part in determining which projects are submitted to the donors, whether projects are submitted at all or whether some countries projects are overlooked. By making the Co-ordinator responsible, we hopefully place it above political biases and pettiness (Ghana);

Conclusion:

The Ghana National Council on Women and Development sees this document as an attempt to streamline the structural arrangements for the advancement of women for a more effective work output and a better working environment. This attempt is laudable. Therefore, it is lamentable that the document does not look further at the role and functions of the WP Co-ordinator who finds herself in an administrative web; having

been appointed by the ATRCW and her finances partly controlled by ATRCW and the MULPOC, she answers to three organs - ATRCW, MULPOC and the subregional committees, not to mention ARCC. The confusions that can arise out of this state of affairs should be foreseen and eliminated by clearly defining the roles and duties of the subregions, the bureau of the subregional committees and the bureau of the ARCC as well as the ARCC itself. In this connexion, the Ghana National Council on Women and Development would like to suggest that ARCC and subregional committees limit themselves to policy and advisory roles and leave implementation and administrative roles to the WP Co-ordinator and individual national machineries.

We wish the various structures all the best in their various roles and duties" (Ghana);

- Annex V - In the rules of procedure the mandate of the bureau of the subregional committee should be stipulated since member States take turns to become Chairperson. It should be stated that the other members of the Bureau are appointed or elected (Gabon);

- Rule 2(b) - The agenda shall be communicated at least two months before the opening of each meeting because some States have difficulties in communicating with headquarters. Because of irregularities in flights, Chad always receives its documents one month late so that sometimes it does not even have information on the agenda of meetings. To enable us to better study the documents in the future kindly send the reports of the meetings of ARCC as well as any other documents on mechanisms for the integration of women in development (Chad);

- Annex V, Rule 1, what is the term (duration) and rules of procedure of the bureau of subregional committee since the presidency is to be by rotation? Are the other member elected or designated? (Chad)

- Annex V, Rule 2(b) should receive agenda two months in advance because of communications difficulties. Flight irregularities result in Chad receiving documents one month late (Chad).

6. Other Observations of a General Nature Submitted by the Member States/ Subregional Committees

- Chad started participating officially in subregional meetings organized by the United Nations system from 1 June 1982; that is why the country has so little information on some of the United Nations bodies responsible for promoting the integration of women in development. For instance Chad has no document whatsoever on ARCC. We would therefore like to request the Director of ATRCW to send us complete documentation on the various bodies on the integration of women in development (Chad);

- The representative of the Pan-African Women's Organization should sit on ARCC as a member and not as an observer given the political position of that organization in the African continent (Madagascar);

- Status of ARCC in ECA meetings: ARCC's obligations shall vary according to the meetings (subregional or regional - ECA Conference of Ministers).

- At the subregional level (para. 9) ARCC shall report to the organs of ECA on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregions. At the ECA level ARCC is invited but not required to present its activities and programmes to the ECA Conference of Ministers for its approval. There seems to be some contradiction between those two paragraphs. It would be preferable for ARCC to submit its activities to a higher body especially since it has to work in close collaboration with ECA. The bulk of its activities are carried out in conjunction with ATRCW which is the administrative body of ECA (Madagascar);

- In the introduction the political role of ARCC is emphasized. It should be recommended to ECA member States to include members of the Bureau of ARCC delegation to ECA meetings. If ARCC remains subsidiary organ, it will contribute to its death. ATRCW is technical, ARCC is political. There should not be any conflict (Congo);

- It is suggested that a chart with commentary attached, describing the different structures, should be attached (Congo);

- The term of ARCC should be clarified (Congo);

- Congo suggests that para. 5 should be used as background to the rules of procedure. In Rule 1 a new (c) is suggested: "The term of the Bureau of SRC should be two years and renewable" (Congo);

- Gabon suggests that the document on Institutional Framework should have three chapters dealing with ARCC, SRC and ATRCW (Gabon);

- Para. 1 (Institutional Framework): The word "mandate" used in Doc. ARCC/ATRCW/82/WD.16 covers two different aspects in the same text. It means "Statute" in Zairean legislation or "Constitution" in other parts of the text on one hand and the mission of ARCC organs on the other hand as it is the case in para. 3(b) (Zaire);

- Para 5(f) (Institutional Framework): Replace "et" at the end of the sentence by a semi-colon (Zaire);

- Para 5(g) (Institutional Framework): Same as (f) above and correct typing error "[illegible]es" (Zaire).

- We are pleased to advise that we have studied document number ATRCW/ARCC/83/WD.8 in connexion with the above-named (i.e. note on Institutional Framework etc.) and have made the observations that it is a very clear analysis of the institutional framework covering relations between the various organs established to promote the integration of women in development. It gives a clear outline of the mandate of those structures, the working relationships between them and the procedures to be followed. We therefore have no reservations in concurring with the decision as outlined (Zimbabwe).

- Morocco agrees with the contents of Document ATRCW/ARCC/83.WD.8 (see the letter from Morocco dated 24 April 1983).

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth Meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-16 May 1984

LC/NAIROBI

REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE/ THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Arusha, Tanzania, September 1984

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review and Appraisal of the Achievements of and Obstacles encountered in the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace in Africa (1976-1985), bearing in mind the guidelines laid down at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City, and the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen:

I. Achievements and Obstacles at the National Level:

(a) In the attainment of the goal and objective of Equality especially in:
- (i) legislation
- (ii) political participation and decision-making
- (iii) economic participation
- (iv) culture and tradition

(b) In the attainment of the goal and objective of Development especially in:
- (i) national development plans and policies
- (ii) national machineries for the integration of women in development
- (iii) women's participation in various sectors of national development
  - agriculture and rural development
  - employment, health and education
  - industry, science and technology

(c) In the attainment of the goal and objective of Peace especially in:
- (i) women and African interstate relations and cooperation
- (ii) women and apartheid
- (iii) women and refugee and displacement problems

II. Achievements and Obstacles at the Regional Level:

(a) In the attainment of the goal and objective of Equality

(b) In the attainment of the goal and objective of Development with particular reference to the implementation of regional plans and strategies, notably the Lagos Plan of Action, especially in:

(i) role of women in alleviating the food crisis in Africa
(ii) women and the Industrial Development Decade in Africa
(iii) situation of women in Employment, Health and Education
(iv) machineries for the integration of women in development
(v) women and technical cooperation and assistance

(c) In the attainment of the goal and objective of Peace especially in:

(i) women and regional cooperation
(ii) women and apartheid
(iii) women and refugee and displacement problems

5. Forward-looking Strategies for African Women to the Year 2000: national, regional and international:

(a) Strategies for Equality:

(i) legislation
(ii) political participation and decision-making
(iii) economic participation
(iv) culture and tradition

(b) Strategies for Development:

(i) development plans and policies
(ii) machineries for the integration of women in development
(iii) women's participation in various sectors of development
- women's role in agriculture and rural development
- women and employment, health and education
- women and industrial development
- women and science and technology
- women and social and cultural development

(c) Strategies for Peace:

(i) women and the achievement of peace

(ii) women and apartheid

(iii) women and refugee and displacement problems

6. Progress on the preparatory work for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting.

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Fifth Meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee on Women in Development

Conakry, Guinea, 16-18 April, 1984

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA, 1976-1985

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA, 1976-1985

EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: These, along with the subthemes of employment, health and education, are the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its Resolution 3010(XXVII) of 18 December 1972. To achieve these goals, governments, non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations system had at hand the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year adopted in Mexico in 1975. The Plan of Action represents a broad consensus of what is needed to be done to bring women, wherever they may be, into the mainstream of development. It indicates what the world community, meeting in Mexico, considered as some of the major priority areas as regards the situation of women.

One year prior to the meeting in Mexico, African governments had adopted their Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in Africa. This plan stipulated specific developmental areas for emphasis in order to accelerate the pace of integration of women in development in the Africa Region. Among these strategies were the establishment of organizational and administrative structures charged with the responsibility for promoting and co-ordinating action for the benefit of women; recognition and promotion of the role of women in agriculture and rural development; expansion of women's opportunities in such areas as education and training, employment, health, and public life; undertaking action-oriented research and data collection as well as devising relevant indicators to measure women's contribution to socio-economic development of their countries; utilization of the mass media as an instrument for positive change, development, and promotion of women's position in African societies; and taking legislative and administrative measures towards advancing the position of women in individual countries. All these African strategies were embodied in the World Plan of Action and were included in the minimum objectives of the Decade recommended for achievement by 1980. In effect, the implementation of the Africa Plan of Action implies the realizations of the World Plan of Action and the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women is so far as it applies to African countries.

The Decade is soon coming to a close. It is time for African countries to take stock of what impact, direct or indirect, the Decade has made on their development, particularly on the extent to which it has contributed to the acceleration of the integration of African women, as contributors to and beneficiaries in Africa's development. General Assembly Resolution 3520(XXX) of 15 December 1975 on the 1975 World Conference of the International Women's Year called upon Governments to take appropriate action to implement the World Plan of Action including:

a) The establishment of short-term, medium-term, and long-term targets and priorities to this end;

b) The adoption of national strategies, plans, and programmes for the implementation of the recommendations within the framework of the overall development plans, policies and programmes;

c) The undertaking of regular reviews and appraisals of progress made at the national and local levels in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Plan of Action within the framework of the overall development plans, policies and programmes.

To this end, the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Decade for Women in the Africa Region is being undertaken by ECA, with the assistance of competent consultants from the Region. It is being carried out at three levels. The first level consists of an extensive examination of relevant documents in the various socio-economic development sectors at the Headquarters of ECA and in selected member States: Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Zambia. These countries have been chosen on the basis of geographical distribution and lingustic balance. Secondly, the review will involve discussions, interviews, and consultations with national leaders, planners, policy makers, including leaders of national machineries for women, as well as representatives of women beneficiaries of activities undertaken during the Decade, at the high, middle and grassroot levels, to assess the impact of the Decade at various levels. Thirdly, it will involve field assessment of some of the programmes and projects which have been implemented during and as a result of the Decade.

In addition, it will include an examination of obstacles and constraints that have impeded progress in women's equal participation in the development of African countries. Some of these obstacles may apply generally to the development process in African countries. Others, however, may stem from historical and socio-cultural practices discriminatory against women. It is expected that concrete proposals will result from this exercise, for future action and measures necessary to achieve the objectives and goals of the Decade even after the close of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

As the United Nations Decade for Women was under implementation, African countries were, at the same time, experiencing difficult economic conditions brought about by both external and internal factors. New development emphases were emerging, making it imperative for African countries to re-orient their development strategies and priorities. The Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (LPA) came at the mid-point of the United Nations Decade for Women. It rose out of the need for African countries to adopt a strategy best suited to their own situations, having realized that previous development concepts and approaches had not brought any significant improvement in the quality of life for the people of Africa. The plan puts emphasis on rapid achievements of increased measures of self-sufficiency and self-reliance; economic integration and co-operation among African countries; establishment and support of national, subregional, and regional institutions to facilitate the attainment of self-sufficiency

and self-reliance. Among the sectors stipulated by the Plan for emphasis include increased food production to enable African countries to feed themselves; the development of industries, natural resources, trade, transport and communication, full development and effective utilization of human resources, building up an adequate scientific and technological base and ensuring its appropriate transfer and application to all areas of development. Women, as contributors to and beneficiaries of Africa's development efforts, are an important element in the implementation and achievements of the goals of the LPA. The Plan itself points out the "importance of giving special attention to women" in the analysis of the present situation and in proposing measures to bring about the achievements of the LPA. The review of the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women cannot therefore be isolated from the principles laid down in the LPA. To do so would be to isolate women from the mainstream of Africa's development strategies.

Analysis of the achievement of the first half of the Decade for Women indicated that although some notable efforts had been made by some governments in promoting the advancement of women in development, accelerated action was still needed to bring about the desired quantitative and qualitative improvement in the situation for women. A number of obstacles impeding the advancement of women remained yet to be overcome. To this end, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women; Equality, Development and Peace, held in Copenhagen, in 1980 drew up a Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality, Development and Peace. The Lagos Plan of Action has coincided with the Programme of Action, and the review and appraisal of the United Nations Decade must take this factor into account.

Following the call for a New International Economic Order (NIEO), developing nations adopted Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries (TCDC), as a co-operative strategy to achieve faster and more balanced development among developing countries. The Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN), the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Industrial Development Decade are among the alternative development strategies calling for a reconsideration and modification of approaches and the adoption of new ones to bring about accelerated socio-economic growth and development. All these had tremendous impact on women's participation in development efforts in African countries during the Decade. The review and appraisal of the achievements and obstacles of the United Nations Decade for Women must of necessity therefore be viewed in this context.

The results of this review at the Africa level, will be submitted as one of the major papers to the Africa Regional Inter-governmental Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, scheduled for September 1984 and the final proposals and recommendations from the Regional Conference will constitute a major input into the World Conference to be held in Nairobi in 1985.

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LC/NAIROB

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ALLEVIATING THE FOOD CRISIS IN AFRICA

1. This document gives a summary of a study entitled "The role of women in alleviating the food crisis in Africa", prepared within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Women and the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. This study follows on the recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action which requires, in paragraphs 316 and 323, that research be undertaken on women as food producers, and that there be a continuous effort to "promote the recognition and documentation on the contribution of women in agriculture in so far as their productive activities contribute to the gross national product, particularly in terms of foodstuffs." This study is divided into three parts: the role of women in agriculture; the problem of water; the problem of wood.

I. The role of women in agriculture

2. The African economy is based essentially on agriculture and men, like women, participate in agricultural production. Unfortunately this participation is difficult to quantify because, in general, there are no accurate agricultural statistics, and where some statistics exist there is no separate data on women. To fill this gap the United Nations encourages, at the present time, the collection of precise data, insisting on information on the economic and social role of women in society, and in particular in the agricultural sector.

Characteristics of the agricultural sector

3. As in the other continents, African has known periods of famine. But towards the sixties it had almost reached self-sufficiency in food production as measured by the proportion of food needs covered by internal production. In 1962-1964 this rate was estimated at 98 per cent. Unfortunately, ten years later, in 1972-1974, the rate was down to 90 per cent, and in 1980 it was 86 per cent.

4. During the same period, 1970-1980, the newly-developing industrialization had only limited results. Contrary to expectations, the change from a subsistence economy to a market economy, which would have prompted an increase in agricultural production, showed slow growth and poor productivity in the agricultural sector. For example, the average yield for cereal cultivation is 1000 kg/ha, whereas the average world yield is 2000 kg/ha. The average yield for the production of tubers and root crops is 7 tonnes/ha while the world average is 11 tonnes/ha.

5. FAO statistics further illustrate the food crisis by showing that the rate of growth for the years 1970-1980 has average 1.3 per cent per annum, whereas food production has decreased by on average of 1 per cent per annum. In the course of the same period 1969/1971 and 1980, imports have increased more than six-fold in value, reaching 8 billion US dollars compared with 1.2 billion in 1969-1971. In addition the calorie intake of 20 per cent of the African population is below the critical threshold, and of the 43 countries to which the World Food Programme gives priority for food aid allocation, 26 are on the African continent.

6. Faced with this reversal of the anticipated food prospects of the continent, and especially the decrease in food production, the Lagos Plan of Action has issued the challenge of utilising all available resources in order to be able to satisfy, in the near future, the food needs of the continent without recourse to imports and food aid.

7. Although this food crisis is part of a general world recession, the decrease in food production and productivity, as well as the rate of self-sufficiency in food, can be explained by the phenomena below, which have brought about, in one way or another, this downward trend:

- the large demographic growth;
- the exodus of young people and men to the towns, attracted by wage-earning employment;
- deterioration of the land;
- natural calamities such as drought, floods;
- the use of archaic tools. Modern techniques of agricultural production are only used in a few large, commercial enterprises while the small farmer has to make do with only a hoe;
- the major part of agricultural investments are directed towards the production of products for export, to the detriment of the small producer;
- the price of food products is low and gives no incentive for the small farmer to increase production;
- marketing networks are often not well organized and do not encourage the small producer;
- the policy of importation can reduce the demand for local products in that, in general, urban consumers prefer imported goods, which are of better quality, to local goods;
- generally speaking, farmers, and more especially female farmers, do not participate in the formulation of agricultural policies.

8. Having ascertained the decrease in agricultural production and productivity, as well as the rate of self-sufficiency in food, and the causes of these, the following chapters will show the role played by African women in the economic system of the continent in general, and in particular in the food-producing sector, as well as their contribution to a solution of the world food crisis.

Women in the rural working population of Africa

9. In 1982, out of a total population in Africa of some 466 million, the female population exceeded that of the male by .49 per cent. However, if one takes into account those of working age (15 to 64 years) women outnumber men.

10. In African societies, the role of women in productive work differs from that of the other continents. Contrary to the traditional practices of other societies, African women have always taken an active part in agricultural production. According to ILO statistics, there are two distinct systems in Africa, depending upon the social and cultural structure of the individual country:

- Africa south of the Sahara, where the female population effectively engaged in agricultural work is more than a third of the total working population. (ILO estimates an average of 33.5 per cent whereas FAO estimates show 47.2 per cent).

- Africa north of the Sahara, as well as those countries with a similar culture, where the participation of women in agriculture is estimated at a little more than 13 per cent, on average.

11. It should also be pointed out that Ruth B. Dixon, author of the article "Women in Agriculture", gives much higher figures than those of ILO and FAO. She estimates that the figures for women working in agriculture could reach 30 per cent in North Africa, and that for women in the countries south of the Sahara they are more than 50 per cent, and at times even exceed 60 per cent. In her article, Ruth Dixon indicates that for the whole of Africa south of the Sahara, women form 45.9 per cent of the total rural working population, the highest ratio of any developing region.

12. It must be understood that all these statistics do not give an exact figure of the actual participation of African women in the agricultural sector. These statistics do not take account of the fact that rural African women begin their working life very young and often continue working beyond the age of 65. The workload of African women is also affected by the exodus of men from the rural areas to the towns, leaving the women with the full burden of agricultural work. A survey carried out by ILO in 1975 showed that 3.6 million young girls, from 10-14 years, were economically active in Africa, and represented 16 per cent of the world's working population in this age group. Again, 1.3 million African women older than 65 were still working, and they constituted 2.6 per cent of the total female working population, with an activity rate of 19.8 per cent.

Work carried out by women in agricultural production

13. African women can be found in the preparation of the soil, sowing, weeding and harvesting of cash crops and food crops, but in general, women have a larger, and almost entire, responsibility for the production of foodstuffs such as cereals, vegetables, roots and tubers.

14. This division of labour came about when colonial regimes introduced crops for export (coffee, cotton, cocoa). These new crops immediately became the object of monetary speculation, and men left the production of food crops to their wives in order to concentrate on more profitable crops . In the regions which were not suitable for cultivation of these export crops, the men left cultivation to their wives and went in search of wage-earning employment in the towns.

15. Women are also found in the spheres of storage, preparation and marketing of foodstuffs. These responsibilities, which are in addition to their daily domestic chores, only serve to increase their burden. However, it must be recognized that the grain mills, which are widely seen throughout the towns, and in the larger population centres, have lightened these chores. However, this technology has not yet reached the majority of rural women.

16. As far as marketing is concerned, yet again the practice in the Muslim countries of North Africa differs from that of the other African countries. In Africa south of the Sahara, this role belongs to the women. The men participate rarely, or only when it is a matter of wholesale selling, or in cattle sales. On the other hand, in North Africa, marketing is essentially a male occupation, but in some cases, women may carry out small trading from their homes.

Agricultural development policies and the integration of rural women in development

17. Although the continent is already conscious of the need to integrate women into development, some political leaders still do not recognise the full contribution women make in agriculture. As a result women farmers do not receive the attention they deserve.

18. In African tradition, where a woman does not inherit land, the African women were deprived of the most important input of production. In those countries which still respect these practices, although the women are allowed to work the land, they have no right to make decisions, either on the use of the land itself or on the profits gained.

19. Furthermore, women still use rudimentary technology. Their tools are the hoe or the digging stick, whereas the work undertaken by men, such as clearing the land, is mechanised.

20. The differentiation makes itself felt even when male and female farmers utilise the same methods of production. A study carried out in Botswana, where animal-assisted cultivation is fairly general, shows that 59 per cent of women-headed households do not have access to animal traction, whereas for families with a male head of household, only 28 per cent do not use animal traction.

21. Women find it difficult to get loans under the present credit system. The commercial banks basically grant credit to men, who have land to offer as collateral; the agricultural development banks give credit to the heads of households, who are often male, and the other financial institutions have high interest rates.

22. Furthermore, in those countries where women's rights are recognised, their voices are not heard because they are often in a minority in the village or co-operative councils.

23. To remedy this situation, women must participate to the same extent as men: (a) in the choice of work to be mechanised; (b) in the adaptation of new technologies to the needs of peasant cultivation; (c) in the granting of credit, which will allow new technology to be introduced

Future prospects for women in the agricultural sector

24. Since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women, international organizations have worked to ensure that governments recognise the role of women in development and take this into account when formulating their development plans.

25. Several measures which could be taken to improve the working conditions of rural women and allow them to achieve better productivity and a definite improvement in agricultural production are:

a) the improvement of technology by the diffusion of upgraded cultivation techniques; the improvement of tools; the availability to women farmers of improved, high-yielding seeds; chemical and organic fertiliser, pesticides and other methods of plant protection, locally manufactured if possible, and the development of appropriate technology;

b) access to training programmes for agriculture, home economics and co-operative techniques;

c) the reform of extension services to orient them more towards women producers;

d) the creation of agricultural co-operatives for production, marketing and consumption, and to provide credit facilities for rural women;

e) improvement of the legal status of women, particularly with regard to their access to land and their right to inherit property; equality of employment and equality of remuneration;

f) collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning the contribution women make to the economy in general, and to the agricultural sector in particular;

g) the active participation of rural women in rural institutions and organizations, and in the decision-making process on matters affecting them.

26. As has been underlined above, the role of rural African women is so important in agricultural production in general, and food production in particular, that every effort aimed at improving the productivity of rural women, and increasing their output, would contribute automatically and to a large measure towards rural development, as well as a solution to the food crisis. African governments should take note of the problems of women at all levels because, not only are they producers, but they are also the mothers of the children who will build the Africa of tomorrow.

II. The problem of water

27. There is no need to demonstrate the vital importance of water to all life, human, animal or vegetable. Water is essential for good food and the good health of the population. Water is one of the principal factors in agricultural and industrial production.

28. In the following paragraphs we will study the problem of water from two angles: water for domestic use and water for agricultural purposes.

Water for domestic use

29. With resolution 35/81 of 10 November 1980, the General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed the years 1981-1990 as the International Decade for Potable Water and Hygiene. One of the objectives given for the decade was the supply of potable water and of sanitary arrangements for all zones, rural and urban, by the year 1990.

30. Because of the crucial importance of the problem of supplying good water, States have made every effort to attain this objective. In general, every town is to have a central distribution system which guarantees the cleanliness of the water.

The problem is still acute in the rural areas. Indeed, the great majority of rural people drink water from springs, rivers or streams which is often far from clean. This leads to problems of health and exhaustion, because the water is often far away, and sometimes to problems with migration when water sources dry up. It is important to realize that this situation has much more effect on rural women because they are the ones who must fetch the water. To solve this problem it is also necessary to improve the working conditions of rural women and to lighten their workload.

31. Several methods have been tried to resolve this problem. Certain States have tried using filters in rural areas, but without success. In the Sahel countries, where the situation is catastrophic because of the drought, they have adopted intensive programmes of borehole and well drilling.

32. African States will have to concentrate considerable efforts to this task because according to the Secretary-General's report at the 35th Session of the General Assembly, 343 million inhabitants in Africa lacked adequate access to water in 1980. Taking into account the population increase by 1990, estimated at 183 million inhabitants, it will be necessary to give access to potable water to 526 million inhabitants, two-thirds of whom are the rural population, and provide sanitary facilities for 571 million individuals. The same report estimated the African urban population served by water distribution and sanitation at 71 per cent and 56 per cent respectively, while in rural areas the population served was estimated at 25 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

33. Water and sanitary installations will cost the States a great deal of money. Moreover, the population will have to be educated as to their proper use. It should be emphasized that these installations will be beneficial to the rural population, especially to the rural women, because not only will they no longer be affected by diseases transmitted by unclean water, but in addition they will be able to devote more time to productive activities.

Water for agricultural use

34. Water is indispensable for agricultural production. When rains are insufficient, or are excessive, man is obliged to resort to irrigation or drainage schemes which allow him to increase or control the yield of the land.

35. In 1980, it was observed that 50-60 per cent of the increase of the previous 20 years arose from new or renewed irrigation areas, while irrigated areas represented only two per cent of the cultivated areas. Unfortunately, irrigation requires investments which are too costly and the scarcity of water demands considerable attention and very careful control. Women have, for a long time, used irrigation on a small scale to raise crops in the humid lowlands, for market garden production and for paddy field cereals (rice). In previous times these lands were less sought after and their yield was higher than in the unflooded lands. However, more and more, these low-lying lands have been taken over by men for irrigation.

III. The problem of wood

36. Wood is an important source of energy. It is used as a fuel for domestic consumption and sometimes makes up the total energy consumption of some countries, when the latter have no other sources of energy.

37. In rural areas of Africa, wood is practically the only fuel used on a large scale. The contribution of wood to the total energy needs of countries depends on the existence of other sources of energy. For example, in Algeria, an oil-producing country, it represents only 1.9 per cent of total energy whereas in Ethiopia it represents 97 per cent.

38. In Africa, the poor management of available wood resources, as well as domestic pressures and the market economy, linked to an urbanisation in full expansion, have profoundly reduced the production and even the extent of forests and woods. In addition, the extravagant cutting of trees, and with it the destruction of a fragile ecosystem, has contributed significantly to the dangers of desertification of the continent. This danger of desertification is illustrated by the world map of desertification presented to the United Nations Conference on Desertification. The map shows that 55 per cent of land in Africa is either already desert or risks becoming desert.

39. To cope with this situation and to allow the rural and poor urban population a minimum of comfort, the countries most deficient in wood have undertaken the following actions:

1. to develop and distribute more efficient cookers. The traditional pot on three stones has an energy efficiency of three to eight per cent, whereas an enclosed oven utilises 50 per cent of the heat produced. The improvement in energy efficiency should produce a wood economy of at least 50 to 100 per cent which, it is hoped, will result in the safeguarding of a part of the woods and forests;

2. to plant trees which have rapid growth. The efforts made so far are far from fulfilling the requirements, and the programme would benefit from support by initiatives from the private, collective and individual sectors;

3. research into alternative forms of energy, especially in areas severely affected, notably in the Sahel. In this respect the use of solar energy continues to be studied. Meanwhile Mauritania has popularised the use of butane gas among its peoples. The danger of desertification must be seen on a regional basis and actions undertaken on an adequate scale.

Conclusion

40. It has been shown above that the food crisis has been the result of a decrease in food production. The production problem constitutes a two-fold deficiency: that of technology in the face of the needs to be satisfied, and that of human factors. The section of the population benefitting from the various investments and upgraded technology already introduced is not the one which can make the maximum contribution to agricultural production. It is known that women are active in food production but for the most part they do not have direct access to the land, training, popularisation, modern inputs and still less to credit. If this situation continues, production, as the rate of self-sufficiency in food, runs the risk of being reduced even further.

41. Consequently, African States must take measures with a view to:

- promote and facilitate access by the greatest number of people, especially women producers, to land and to water;

- encourage scientific research in agricultural technology and the dissemination of popular techniques;

- allocate more resources to the development of the agricultural sector and to the improvement of living conditions in rural areas;

- ensure the participation of the population, especially women, in decision making, in the choice and the execution of local, national and regional programmes;

- encourage large-scale reforestation pr ogrammes and research on the economic use of the available wood, as well as the development and popularisation of alternative forms of energy.

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WOMEN UNDER APARTHEID AND REFUGEE AND DISPLACED WOMEN IN INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES

1. As the United Nations Decade for Women draws to a close special attention will be drawn to the review and appraisal of the situation of women living under very special circumstances. In the Africa region such women are the several millions caught under the oppression of apartheid or involuntarily displaced and thrown into refugee existence in independent states. Numerous conventions, resolutions and declarations of the United Nations General Assembly, international conferences and meetings have in recent years focussed attention on the crime of apartheid and the suffering of African refugees and displaced persons. The International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA I, Geneva, 1980) the forthcoming ICARA II (Geneva, July 1984), the International Conference on Racism and Racial Discrimination (Geneva, 1983), the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence (Paris, 1983), and the Meeting of the OAU Secretariat and Voluntary Agencies on African Refugees (Arusha, 1983) are among the most recent international efforts to find solutions to these problems.

2. The ECA Conference of Ministers has persistently drawn attention to the plight of Africans in the two situations. The Conference resolutions 370(XIV) of 27 March 1979 and 411(XVI) of 10 April 1981 condemned the racist and apartheid policy of the South African regime, called for direct assistance to the liberation movements recognized by the OAU and appealed for support to the front-line African States suffering from the consequences of apartheid aggression. In the Addis Ababa Declaration adopted at their Silver Jubilee Anniversary session, member States of the Commission again denounced the obnoxious policy of apartheid and renewed their resolve to pursue the total liberation of the continent.

3. Likewise, Conference resolution 395(XV) of 12 April 1980 drew attention to the situation of refugees in Africa, in particular their rapidly growing numbers, and urged member States, the Secretariat and the UNHCR to provide assistance in the fields of education, training, employment and other long-term socio-economic development programmes. It has been reasonably established that in 1967 there were about 750,000 African refugees. In 1978 the number had reached 3.5 million and by 1980 had exceeded 5 million, or more than half the world's total of refugees. One out of every two refugees in the world is an African. This figure does not include the thousands of persons subjected to forced internal migrations caused by famines, violence and civil war.

4. African women's organizations and groups have shown increased concern for the plight of women caught in the two dire circumstances. In 1979 the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development (Lusaka) discussed the issue of apartheid and the status of women in Southern Africa in terms of the effects of the racist policy and called for measures to assist the affected peoples. The call made in Lusaka was reiterated in Douala in 1982 when the Third Meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee on the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) discussed the question of refugee and displaced women and peace and development in Africa and the world. The ECA Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 447(XVII) of 30 April 1982 requesting, inter alia, the inclusion of these serious issues on the agenda of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development to be held in 1984.

5. There is need for serious study of the many facets of these issues. While the broad outlines of the situation of all peoples affected by apartheid and the refugee crisis in Africa are known through various studies sponsored by the Special Committee on Apartheid, the National Liberation Movements, the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), other United Nations agencies and voluntary organizations, there is general agreement that the particular situation of women in these circumstances is not sufficiently well delineated. For example, there is no systematic data collection on the numbers, categories and characteristics of the women affected, the differential impact of their location, their degrees of "vulnerability", their special assets and potentialities.

6. The ARCC meeting in Douala in 1982 acknowledgedthat African women and governments were not sufficiently sensitized to the magnitude of the problems due to lack of information and statistics on the women and children affected. The international community was also made aware of this problem at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Copenhagen in 1980. Thus resolution 13 of the Conference urged UNHCR to draw upon the expertise of all concerned UN bodies to carry out detailed studies and research and resolution 45 called upon the women of the world to pressurize their governments to disseminate information on the effects of apartheid as widely as possible.

7. The need for detailed research and adequate data is not only imperative to sensitize African governments and the international community in the mobilization of support and assistance, it is also essential for the understanding of the affected women and children themselves as they undergo various changes in their enforced circumstances. Women under apartheid need to know and understand fully the political, economic, social and ideological implications of their triple oppression by race, class and sex under the complex racist policy. They and their leaders in the struggle against apartheid also need to know how to effect the necessary changes in the position and roles of women when their countries are liberated and reconstructed. In the case of refugee and displaced women, cultural conditioning, the hazards of abrupt and unplanned movements away from home, the burden of increased and unaccustomed family responsibilities in unfamiliar environments, all help to make them vulnerable. The women need to understand these forces in order to overcome the barriers to their own constructive development. Likewise, refugee-serving agencies and governments need to appreciate the specific issues of women to better provide relevant humanitarian and technical assistance. Such understanding and appreciation can be achieved through detailed and more focussed studies.

8. The problems of women under apartheid and displaced and refugee women overlap and are common in some respects, yet they differ significantly in their root causes and effects when seen in the totality of the respective social contexts. A theoretical framework has therefore been developed in a joint orientation and methodology workshop for the study that will reveal the underlying causes and explain the effects of the various processes of transformation in the social, economic, political, legal, cultural and ideological spheres. The study is being conducted in two complementary undertakings by two consultants from the region to produce the best results. One consultant is studying women under apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and in three frontline states: Zambia, Tanzania and Angola. The other consultant is studying refugee and displaced women in four independent African States: Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. This cluster of countries in the Horn and Eastern Africa (together with Tanzania and Kenya) hosts the majority of Africa's 5 million refugees. They also have large
numbers of displaced persons. As these are also some of the poorest, least developed countries (LDCs) of the region, their condition compounds the problems of the people seeking refuge and asylum and so present the crisis in sharpest relief.

9. The consultants will review the available documentation on the subjects and conduct field research and seek statistical data which will enable them to analyse the root causes and assess the quantitative and qualitative effects of apartheid and the refugee situation on women with particular reference to juridical, political, economic, social, psychological and cultural effects. They will evaluate the major changes that have occurred, identify the existing problems and needs of different categories of women (young/old, educated/uneducated, married/unmarried, mothers, widows, heads of households), and make recommendations for measures to be taken at the levels of national liberation movements, African women's organizations, African governments and the international community. If appropriate, they will propose a regional plan of action on the critical issues.

10. The comparative research of different categories of apartheid-affected and refugee women will provide a better basis for determining realistic policy options than most of the existing data that treats the women as an undifferentiated mass. The findings will be presented to the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development. The results will also be capable of being critically evaluated and used by those studied for understanding their own reality and directing their actions, as well as by national machineries for women, voluntary organizations, concerned governments and international agencies for formulating and implementing necessary measures.

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NOTE ON THE WOMEN AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE IN AFRICA RESEARCH PROJECT

1. The research project on women and the Industrialization Decade in Africa was stimulated by ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 447(XVII) which requested research to be done on the participation of women in the Industrial Development Decade in Africa for presentation to the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development. In response to this resolution ECA through the African Training and Research Centre for Women designed and secured funding for a research project which forms part of its 1984-1985 work programme, the ultimate aim of which is to help ensure the equitable participation of women in the industrialization process in Africa. Throughout, the subsidiary aim is to supply the secretariat for the Industrial Development Decade in Africa (198 -1989) with the necessary information so that women's needs and situation can be taken into account in planning with member States for the Decade.

2. Among the important issues to be considered are how to guard against the adverse effects which technology transfer and redeployment might have on women, how the current economic crisis is affecting women's participation in the industrialization process, the need to develop technologies to alleviate the burden of women's work, the need to upgrade technologies in sectors and subsectors where women are heavily engaged to ensure that they are not displaced by new technologies, and the need to examine cultural, social and economic constraints which limit women's full participation in the industrialization process.

3. The short-term objectives of the project are to develop recommendations and a plan of action for the participation of women in the Industrial Development Decade in Africa; to present the ECA Conference of Ministers of Industry with a positive strategy for the participation of women in the Industrialization Decade in Africa; and through the medium of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development/Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, to give input for the world survey on the role of women in development in selected sectors of the International Development Strategy of the Third United Nations Development Decade (as mandated by resolutions of the General Assembly).

4. To meet the long- and short-term objectives, four national case studies have been commissioned. The countries where the studies are taking place are Egypt, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania. These countries were chosen for reasons representing a combination of factors. Importance was given to historical/economic/social factors, patterns of industrialization, nature of industrial ownership, and socio-cultural situations of women as variables to be considered. Geographical and language distribution were also included.

5. From 6-8 February 1984 a research methodology meeting on women and the industrial development decade in Africa project was held at ECA in Addis Ababa. The meeting brought together the four researchers on the project along with ECA/ATRCW experts on women and development, resource persons from the International Trade and Finance Division of ECA, the ECA/UNIDO Joint Industry Division, the ILO Regional Office for Africa, the Ford Foundation (donor of funds for the project), and independent consultants. At this meeting research issues were presented, investigated and a common outline for the national case studies adopted. Each national case study will take five months. The report on the project to be presented to the Third Regional Conference will be a synthesis of the results from the four country case studies.

6. The first section of the study will investigate macro-level issues, including patterns of industrialization and industrial policy. Here the unique national historical backgrounds will be discussed and references made to relevant industrial legislation, the national patterns for the location of industries, and the prevailing system of industrial relations. To secure this data, national economic development plans will be studied, legislation analyzed and interviews conducted with policy makers.

7. Necessary to an understanding of the macro-level issues is an examination of the socio-cultural, historical, and economic factors in the participation of women in industrialization. This will involve an interdisciplinary approach, looking at demographic, population and educational factors, inter alia. This will be followed by an examination of developing tendencies in women's industrial labour force participation, to be illustrated by charts and graphs showing the distribution of women by sectors, and the number of women as a percentage of all workers by industry. In this subsection women's labour force participation will be analyzed in relation to the total labour force, in relation to rates of population growth and to migration patterns. Necessary data will be presented on changes in industrial and occupation distribution and the status of women workers (unpaid, self-employed, wage employed, etc.). Also included in the first major section will be a discussion of the impact of industrial strategy choice (import substitution vs export-led) on women (and men), and the nature and control of industrial ownership by country.

8. The second major section of the study will deal with enterprise level issues. Firstly, the situation of women as industrial entrepreneurs, investors and managers will be studied. The consequences of the nature and control of industrial ownership patterns on women will be examined, including private, public and multinationally-owned enterprises, looking in particular at all types of training and career advancement opportunities; at the individual level, the impact of products and the aspect of resulting changing consumption patterns will be looked into. This section will include material on women's trade union activities, the relationship between industrial requirements and women's skills, and the participation of women in key industries identified for priority action by the Industrial Development Decade in Africa Programme. These key industries include agro-industries, small-scale industries, textiles, forestry, construction, metallurgy, chemical, and packing material industries. The concluding section of the second part will centre on women's work behavior, in an attempt to discern the gap between perception and reality, and women and science and technology. Among the science and technology issues for industrial development are influence of bilateral donor industrial policies, national technology policy, development of technology to improve women's productivity in the home, development of home cottage industries, and women and the transfer of technology (including loss of previous occupations, loss of industrial employment, and changing consumption patterns).

9. The concluding section will make predictions regarding the participation of women in industrialization in Africa to the end of the century and recommendations to influence the course of their participation. It is anticipated that this will be the most important section for purposes of indicating strategies for the programme of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa, as well as the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women and, ultimately, the World Conference on the Decade.

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PREVIEW OF THE WOMEN IN AFRICA TO THE YEAR 2000 RESEARCH PROJECT

Introduction

1. One of the major papers to be presented to the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development/Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women is entitled, "Women in Africa to the Year 2000." The basic idea behind the study is that as the end of the United Nations Decade for Women approaches, much remains to be done to ameliorate the situation of women in Africa. Innovative solutions and forward-looking strategies must be devised. It is towards these ends that this study is being undertaken.

2. The purpose of this short paper on the "Women in Africa to the Year 2000" project is to present the theoretical and methodological framework in which the study is being undertaken, in order to give a clear picture of the assumptions underlying the work. It is hoped that its presentation will have an impact on the policies regarding the integration of women in development in Africa for the rest of the century and beyond, and influence as well thoughtful reconsideration of the situation of women in other regions.

Theoretical Framework

3. Some of the weaknesses in past approaches to analyzing the situation of women have come from isolating women as an analytic category. Such an approach leads to the assumption that the situation of all women, regardless of class, country of origin, environmental situation, etc. is the same or similar. The fallacies of such an analysis are obvious. Therefore, there is an analytic need to "de-isolate" women's issues and to see them as a consequence of interrelated variables:

4. Thus a starting point of this study is a realization of the heterogeneity of women's situations - the realization that women in Soweto, in Kigali, nomadic Turkana women, women in Lagos live and behave in different ways and face different problems. Some women are endowed with resources, information and power, while others struggle for survival in marginal, urban suburbs or in poor rural or isolated drought regions. This last category of disadvantaged urban and rural women represents, unfortunately, the majority of African women. To recognize differences in women's problems means to recognize the need of different types of solutions to face these problems. There is thus no "package solution" possible for the problems facing women in Africa. Planners and policy makers need to handle concrete causal factors at precise decision points to orient development strategies towards desired goals.

5. The situation of women in Africa can not be isolated from the general development of the region. Women are an integral part of the historical processes that have affected the region -- that is, their "integration" is already a fact of life. As the Executive Secretary of ECA has written, the type of development which has emerged in Africa:

> .... puts us into a straight jacket of producing what we do not consume and of consuming what we do not produce; and, which makes us exporters of raw materials at low and, in most cases, declining prices in order to import semi-finished and finished products at high and rising prices.1/

1/ Adebayo Adedeji, the Evolution of the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action: A Regional Approach to Economic Decolonisation (Economic Commission for Africa: 1983).

6. Thus, the need arises to study the situation of women in Africa, past, present and future -- from the viewpoint of scientific knowledge, utilizing new and fresh approaches. These new approaches should consider women's issues as concrete and specific, inextricably linked to the situation of their countries and the region, the economic and social systems and timeframe of which they are a part. The assessment of women's situation in Africa and the conception of the future must refer to concrete conditions and facts and should adopt a holistic perspective, moving through different levels of analysis and considering the multiple diminsions of the problem.

7. This study has been designed to be complementary to the ECA study, "ECA and African Development, 1983 - 2008", which was prepared for the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of ECA. Its follows the same outline and utilizes similar methodology, as explained in paragraphs 12, 13, 17 and 18 below.

Categories of Analysis

8. As has been stated above, in this study it is necessary to examine the multiple dimensions of women's lives and the multiplicity of settings in which they are found. Thus, the study will begin with descriptive data on the following aspects of the present situation of women in Africa. Basic to any understanding of the situation of women in the region is a description of their demographic situation -- how many, where, what ages. This will be followed by an examination of women's positions in the socio-economic systems of the region. Since they are concentrated in the rural areas, the agricultuural sector will be examined in detail, looking at the access of women to basic inputs, their working conditions in rural wage and self-employment, major constraints to their agricultural productivity, additional roles they assume in the rural setting, and an analysis of the major problems they face there.

9. Presentation will be made of the processes of their coming to the urban areas - rural to urban migration, the marginality in which they find themselves in the cities, and the work they take on there. The realm of work will include industrial employment, self-employment, un- and underemployment. Their multiple urban roles will be examined and the major constraints they face in the urban setting proferred.

10. Vital to an understanding of women's situation, rural and urban, is access to water, and their nutrition and general health. Thus, an examination of environmental factors is also important.

11. Without the framework of social organization, political institutions and the law, one cannot view the entirety of women's situation. It is within this context that the achievement of equality, peace and security, the aims of the United Nations Decade for Women, must be seen.

12. The first part of the study which presents the current situation of women in Africa will be followed by the historical scenario describing how women's

participation came to be as it is within the socio-economic system that has evolved. This will be followed by the normative scenario, describing the possibilities of women's self-reliant participation in a system, such as that described by the Monrovia Strategy.

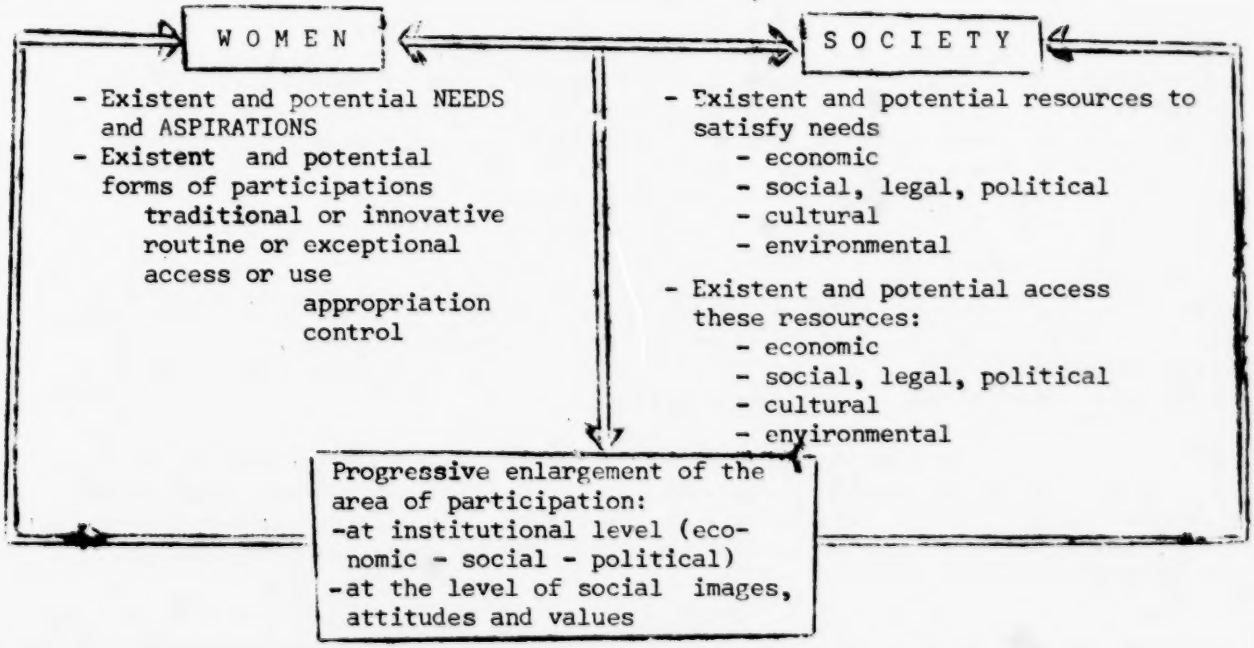
13. To imagine the future means to liberate women themselves and public opinion from fatalistic approaches - there is nothing that can be done - to possibilities, information, and know-how. The future can and should be different. But how? In what way? If ideal ways are conceived, what actions and strategies should be adopted to attain the desired goals? Answers to these questions will be set forth in the concluding part of the study.

Methodological Considerations

14. In order to handle the multiple variables and consider them in their dynamic interactions, diverse research tools are necessary. Some of these tools allow for the projection into the future.

15. One approach involves the devising of a model that can capture the major elements that affect women's situation and the interplay between them. The major element in this model are the women of the region themselves, as agents of change, and the societies of w hi ch they are part. Vital to development is the capacity of women in Africa to overcome constraints which they face and to define and implement a form of participation beneficial for themselves and for the region as a whole. In this they come face to face with society and its capacity to integrate positively and benefit from women as vital human resources in the development process.

16. The following tentative model has been suggested to capture some of the facets of the interplay between women's participation and societal transformations. This model will be refined and adapted, as necessary, in contact with empirical data.



17. The above model will be used in conjunction with the development of scenarios for specific sectors of women's lives and the socio-economic framework of which they are part. The future situation of women in Africa will depend to a large extent on the capacity of the system to integrate human resources, particularly women, more effectively and more positively into the development efforts of their respective countries. This is a wide objective which can be accomplished through many development strategies. The selection and assessment of alternative strategies requires a major analytic effort to conceive the consequences of strategies which are adopted or proposed. The process by which these consequences are envisaged consists of building "outlines or sketches" of the possible situation, using tools called "scenarios", that is, outlines of conceivable states of affairs given certain assumptions. The advantage of a scenarios approach to studying the future is that it can describe interrelations among facts instead of providing a one-dimensional view. It is particularly important for planning purposes since it allowsthe planner to imagine which factors and what type of relationships among them are affecting the action in question, and at which point actions can be oriented towards expressed goals.

The Need for Plans

18. To imagine alternatives for the future is not enough. It is necessary to devise and adopt a plan in order to orient the present towards what is seen as a better future. For this reason, this exercise in developing "forward-looking strategies" is not an empty intellectual one, but rather the most vital concern for women of the Region. Images of the future can be effective only if they lead to the making of policy. Women who see a better future must become involved in decision and policy making. Strategies must be devised to indicate how the imperfect present can become a better future.

19. The examination of what constitutes a better future has already taken place in the Africa region. The Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (Lagos, 1979) intends to implement a long-term strategy aiming at a self-sustained development and economic growth based on principles of collective self-reliance and aimed at improving the living standards of the mass of African people and reducing mass unemployment. Within this global strategy, involving and unifying the continent's different aspirations and strategies for a better future, African women are to play a decisive role, as detailed in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy.

20. ECA has increasingly recognized the great potential of women in Africa to accelerate the pace of national and regional development in Africa. As stated in the Lagos Plan of Action "since Africa's greatest asset is its human resources, full mobilization and effective utilization of the labour force (men, women and youth, both trained and untrained) for national development and social progress should be a major instrument of development".

21. It is hoped that this study may serve as the basis for serious discussion of the possible futures available to women in the Region. As amended and adopted by the Conference, this study, along with the volume "ECA and African Development", could provide important guidelines for regional and national planning over the next decades.